

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE
HORTICULTURE, THE FARM
THE GARDEN

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MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

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note size paper, with ink, and upon but one side

of the paper. Correspondence from particular farmers, giving

the results of their experience, is solicited.

Letters should be signed with the writer's real

name, in full, which will be printed or not, as the

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AGRICULTURAL.

February on the Farm.

The lengthening days and increasing power of the sun give promise already of the coming spring, and the gardener finds his plan's under glass growing with increased vigor and demanding more attention in watering and airing them on fine days. But the weather generally is apt to be windy and changeable, and demands quite as much care as ever in providing for the comfort of cattle and poultry.

It is well to remember the old saying, "Candlemas day (Feb. 2), half your wood and half your hay," and take account of stock and see if the fodder is likely to hold out till spring pastures revive. A little forethought is often better than afterthought in such matters, giving one time to provide for any deficiency.

The gardener who wants his early cabbages to come as early as anybody's will sow seeds of the earliest kinds, such as Wakefield and Early Summer, about the 10th of this month. The plants will need to be hardened off well before setting out in the field, which will be done about the 20th of April. Early lettuce and onion seeds for planting out at the same time will need sowing about the same date. There is no hurry about sowing tomato seed before Feb. 25th to March 1st. The seed, when sown, should be in a warm bed, with a temperature of sixty to seventy degrees, and the plants should be kept growing constantly without check from cold or neglect in watering, until ready to go to the field, which will not be till about the middle of May.

Seeds of hardy flowering plants like asters, pansies, forget-me-nots, etc., may be sown this month and picked out a month later into shallow boxes or pots for setting out in the field in May.

The breeder of early chickens, pigs and ducks will have his young stock to take care of at this season. A little care at the right time, which is as likely to be at night as at any time, will often make the difference between profit and loss. Early pigs and poultry always bring the best price in the market, and it pays to take care of them. The same remarks apply with even greater force to early lambs, which are bred even earlier than most breeders attempt with chickens. Some of the latter, however, breed continuously through the winter.

Most thrifty farmers manage to finish the cutting and hauling of wood for the season during this month, while the sleighing lasts, and before the outdoor work of spring begins. The hauling of manure also is pushed forward as fast as may be, so as to leave more leisure for the teams and men in spring for plowing and planting. The days are now long enough for a man to do a good day's work, and it pays to hire help as early as work can be found for them, so as to be ready to push the work as soon as spring opens.

Those dairymen who use ice, as most of them do, will now have a good chance to lay in a stock; the weather is apt to be treacherous, and the sooner a supply is secured the better. Those who cut ice in large quantities say that it can be

cut and put into the ice house at a cost of about twenty cents per ton, and its use has come to be almost a necessity in every well ordered dairy and family. Everyone must decide for himself whether it will pay him to store the ice himself or buy of a dealer, which will depend largely on how much is used, and how near one is to the pond or other source of supply. The estimate of twenty cents per ton is for cutting, hoisting by steam, and packing in a house alongside the pond, and does not include carting or breaking out of the house for delivery.

cream of the Bulletins.

FEEDING FOR BEEF.

Bulletin 39, of the Mississippi Station, gives some results of feeding for beef which are of interest. Four kinds of hay were used, shredded corn fodder, crabgrass, peavine, and red clover. The red clover was the one upon which the best gains were made, and this was followed very closely by the peavine, while the shredded corn was the poorest feed in the lot, although this was made up, in part at least, by its small cost. For a grain feed, five and a half pounds of cottonseed meal per day gave the best results, giving a better gain than did seven and a half pounds. "Jack Bean" meal was of almost no value, as it was not relished by the cattle, and even after they were taught to eat it the gains were very small.

FEEDING LAMBS.

At the Michigan Station ten lots of lambs, ten in each lot, as nearly even in size and quality as could be gotten, were fattened on ten different combinations of feed-stuffs with the following results:

Those fed ration of corn, roots and clover hay gave a net profit of \$1.50 each; those fed corn, roots and alfalfa gave a net profit of \$1.59 each; those fed corn, roots and a mixture of clover hay and millet gave a net profit of \$1.68 each; those fed corn, roots and millet hay gave a net profit of \$1.46 each; those fed corn, roots and a mixture of clover hay and oats straw gave a net profit of \$1.66 each; those fed corn, roots and straw gave a net profit of \$1.66 each; those fed corn, roots clover hay and corn stalks gave a net profit of \$1.82 each; those fed corn, roots, and corn stalks gave a net profit of \$1.98 each; those fed corn, roots, clover hay and bean straw gave a net profit of \$1.67 each; those fed corn, roots and straw gave a net profit of \$1.63 each.

The corn was a yellow dent variety, the roots were rutabagas, and the clover, alfalfa, millet and straw were of average quality. The corn stalks were cut into lengths of one to three inches on an ensilage cutter. All feeds were produced on the station farm and an adjoining farm and are charged at market prices.

GROWING POTATOES FROM SPROUTS.

In order to obtain the largest possible yield of potatoes from a given quantity of seed, the plan of utilizing all the sprouts is followed. Every fully-developed potato "eye" is composed of one strong (terminal) bud surrounded by several smaller (auxiliary) buds. When placed under the proper conditions of heat and moisture, the main bud pushes up and forms the first shoot or stem of the "vine;" at the same time roots are formed at its base. If this shoot be removed, the strongest of the remaining buds pushes up in like manner. This will continue until all of the buds have started, or until all of the food supply contained in the tuber is exhausted.

Place the tubers in a greenhouse or hothed in light sand or very light sandy soil and cover lightly, barely out of sight. Give but little water, only enough to keep the earth moist. After the sprouts have appeared, give all the light and air possible, for potato plants show a decided tendency to "spindle" when grown under glass. When the first sprouts have reached a height of four or five inches they may be removed by gently pushing the fingers down close to the tuber and breaking them off. Usually a perfect mat of roots will be found developed from the base of each stem. This is a perfect plant with roots, stem, and leaves, and may be planted in the open ground in the same way as a cab-



WHITE PLYMOUTH ROCKS (Empire Strain.)

bage or tomato plant, and with equal care is just as certain to mature a crop. Three or four crops of sprouts may be taken.

The number of plants may be further increased by taking slips or cuttings from the tips of the sprouts, which may be rooted in a greenhouse or shaded hothed in the same manner as other soft wood cuttings. To repeat, plant in sand or sandy soil so that the sprouts may be easily removed. Give but little water, to avoid danger of rot. Unless extreme earliness be desired, it is not necessary to use a hothed or other artificial heat. A cold frame is sufficient with a covering of hay or leaves instead of glass, this to be removed as the sprouts appear. — Wisconsin Experiment Station.

Pedigree Strawberry Plants.

Pedigree plants or animals are those having a known line of ancestry—presumably good ancestry.

New varieties of strawberries originate from seed sown by man or by nature. A variety thus originated propagates itself by means of runners, which grow out from an old plant, take root and form young plants. A pedigree strawberry plant, as I use the term, means, usually, but not always, one of the above kinds (for the ancestry of some of the best varieties is not known), which has been still further improved by repeatedly selecting plants noted for general excellence as fruit-bearers, from whose runners young plants are obtained to set all new fields.

From these young plants the most excellent ones are again in planting time selected, and so on indefinitely. But the berries should not be allowed to remain on these plants an hour longer than is necessary to prove the fruitfulness and general excellence of the plant. The berries should always be pulled off before they ripen or the seeds mature, which is the process so exhausting to the plant.

It is denied that this selection does any good at all, and is asserted that a plant of any given variety is just as good as any other plant of that variety. That the assertion is erroneous I know from actual and repeated tests. I have long followed this plan of selection, and proved that it does tell strongly in the improvement of a variety, provided, of course, that it is intelligently and persistently carried out. In fact, improvement in plant or animal can come in no other way.

To assert that all strawberry plants of any given variety are equally good, no matter how the one may have been allowed to run down by neglect, or the other bred up by careful selection and high culture, is an error, and an error of a very harmful kind. It is as erroneous as to hold that one herd or strain of Jersey cows is as good as any other herd or strain, although one might have been highly and judiciously fed and bred from only the best cows, and the other herd or strain had been starved and bred from scrubs for twenty generations.

The fact is that all varieties of strawberry plants, as soon as originated, begin a gradual process of change. It may be slow, but it is sure, and almost inevitably tends to deterioration. My plan is to arrest, and even to some extent reverse this process of deterioration by raising young plants from old plants of conspicuous merit and from no others. O. W. BLACKNALL.

Kittrell, N.C.

Farm Water Supply.

The question of a water supply is an important one. Water may be far from pure and healthful and still look and taste well when freshly drawn. Many wells on account of their location are little better than cesspools for the drainage from house and barn. It is safe to regard old wells with suspicion if they are located near buildings. This is particularly true if the wells are shallow. All the water that finds its way into wells passes through surface soil, and if the soil through which any given well obtains its supply of water is saturated with organic matter from kitchen waste or human or animal excrement. The organic matter finds its way into the well and contaminates the water. If the amount of contamination is slight and considerable water is drawn from the well, it may not be a very serious matter. There is a very simple method that is also very satisfactory by which the purity of the water may be tested. Partially fill a perfectly clean bottle with the water to be tested, cork it tightly and set in a warm place. If it remains clear and free from disagreeable odors it cannot contain much organic matter. The old wells on many farms may be regarded in the nature of an incubator. If every man that sells a farm would reserve the well and remove it with the personal property it would often be fortunate for his successor. It has always remained where it was first located. Successive owners have rearranged the buildings but never disturbed the well. What was once a good location may now be a very poor one. — Dr. F. L. Russell, Maine.

In Praise of Ben Davis.

Because the Ben Davis is not the equal in quality of a half dozen varieties of transcendent excellence in that respect, but otherwise deficient, a few hundred men of acutely critical judgment have rejected it. Nature is not bounteous in her super-eminent productions. Being over-exquisite, they come in diminished quantities and soon perish. The tolling millions waste no time in vain regrets over them, but cheerfully accept nature's offering. It is only among the select four hundred—mainly members of horticultural societies and over-educated—that we hear lamentations over the depravity of the Ben Davis; and these hasten to buy it before it is all taken in the second quarter of the year. When it comes to the tug of war, the intellect is no match for the stomach. — J. Y. Stone.

ANNUAL MEETING

—OF THE—

N. E. AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,

—AT—

Wesleyan Hall, 36 Bromfield Street.

Boston, Feb. 2, 1897.

The New England Agricultural Society held its annual meeting in Boston Tuesday forenoon, Feb. 2.

In regard to the next Fair, it was supposed there might be some difference of opinion on account of the rumored intention of the Worcester Society to invite co-operation. Quite a large delegation came from Portland to support the claims of that city. But the meeting proved harmonious in every respect, and the next fair will be held in Portland. Attendance at the meeting was unusually large. President F. H. Appleton called the meeting to order promptly at eleven o'clock, and gave the following address, which received liberal applause:

Address of Gen. Francis H. Appleton, President.

FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE NEW ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY:

Our Society was founded during the stirring days of 1861, when the future of this country was in great danger.

The support of our forces was dependent upon the resources, both financial and agricultural, of that part of our land which remained loyal to the Union.

Those days of uncertainty have long since passed away, bright days of prosperity came, continued in varying degree, and now, after a time of dullness in business, and after a visit of sound finance that has established a basis for credit, we expect and hope for a new era of prosperity, to come gradually for the relief of the industrious of the nation.

Our Society, under my presidency, has held its Fair two years beneath the skies and in the bracing atmosphere of the State of Maine, at Portland, and we are asked to again make our home for the Fair of 1897, in the same place. I believe that city is ready to offer a continuance, if not an advance, of her offer to us in previous years.

What better can we do, and where can we, for this year, find a location that will be more fitting to continue our accounting to our members than in that city, with her two unique promenades that overlook one of our national harbors, where our White Squadrons have, and can always ride at anchor safely, and with all due grace and beauty. The necessary buildings stand now complete for our use.

Let us join the citizens of Maine and Portland, for 1897, in doing honor to the cause of agriculture, by again drawing to those well-appointed grounds at Rigby Park the live-stock of New England in such quantities as shall be a credit to our breeders and be instructive and useful to our people.

It may be our privilege to hold our city exhibit and city entertainment in the new and well-appointed Armory building, of which Mayor Baxter and Portland have reason to be proud. At our Fairs our people seek entertainment along with instruction, both in city and Park; and I have no doubt that an instructive and high-grade exhibit, combined with entertainment, will take possession of that new Armory Hall during our next Fair, if your votes are for Portland.

If an agricultural Fair is to continue and be of value, as a public work, the receipts must be made to over-balance the expenses.

The expenses at a good agricultural Fair, such as we have held for the past two years, are considerable, as the work in preparation, the work in running and the prizes show, and the high quality of the contents of tents, sheds and grounds in the west portion of the Rigby grounds have warranted it.

The ways of meeting those expenses must be decided by local judgment, and be subject to local control.

That great and powerful agent, known to all as Public Opinion, must be consulted, and guided and bowed to. And the experience of the past should guide and frame action for the future.

Attractions that will attract and entertain must exist about which all can gather and find healthy amusement. Novelties bring people to the gates, who leave that which pays expenses. Without them the Fair in the country must go out of business.

Our standard for live-stock must be above the average, or our people will suffer in the results. It must be the aim of breeders and others to advance and improve, and it is for us, in the interest of our people, to do all we can to help them.

The trolley and motor carriage can never replace that superb, intelligent and companionable creature in all his classes, the horse; and does it seem possible that we can ever dispense with the ox and the cow in our dietary?

The city of Boston has planned for a speedway to take the place of the celebrated Brighton road, now consumed in the advance of population and civilization. All inspiring out-of-door exercise should be encouraged, especially for the colder seasons, when we are too much inclined to keep in doors.

Should 1897 see our three-year term at Portland brought to a close, we can only appreciate

the cordial welcome we have received at Rigby in our successful attempt to establish there an Agricultural Fair; and looking forward to a god-speed for the future, mutually given, when we separate.

Let us aim to have the New England Fair of 1897 surpass those of 1895 and 1896 in every way possible.

Secretary E. T. Rowell of Lowell read a detailed report of the last meeting. The report was accepted.

Treasurer Hon. Warren Brown, Hampton Falls, N. H., read his report, showing

Balance from last year,	\$1962.98
Interest received,	98.58
41 life memberships,	205.00
	\$2266.56
Paid misc. expenses,	\$221.45

Balance in hand, \$2045.11

The treasurer's verbal summary of the account of the last Fair showed a profit of about \$4000. "When the Society came to Portland in '95," said Mr. Brown, "a joint account of about \$4000 was made with the Portland people for new buildings. The profits last year would about offset this debt, but we had to put up more buildings. We have, however, reduced the joint account to \$2000. There is no reason why we should not come out, after holding the fair, with a balance in the treasury, and a good character."

The treasurer's report was accepted. A committee of three from each state were appointed to revise the list of trustees. The following were nominated and elected to that office:

MAINE.—Gen. C. P. Mattocks, Portland; Sylvanus Porter, Cumberland; Frank H. Briggs, Auburn; A. Whitney, Portland; T. P. R. Cortland, Portland; Newell Thomas, Portland.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.—S. C. Fisher, Dover; C. C. Shaw, Milford; Chester Pike, Cornish; Thos. J. Jameson, Great Falls.

VERMONT.—A. E. Perkins, Pomfret; John Crompton, Rutland; Henry C. Cleveland, Coventry; H. R. C. Watson, Brandon.

MASSACHUSETTS.—John Johnson, Framingham; C. B. Pratt, Worcester; Abel F. Stevens, Wellesley; Leander F. Herrick, Worcester.

RHODE ISLAND.—W. P. Vaughn, Providence; T. W. Round, Providence; Edgar A. Hopkins, Providence; Lyman M. Darling, Providence.

CONNECTICUT.—J. H. Larned, Putnam; Robert A. Potter, Bristol; Frederick Chambers, Sandy Hook; Wm. C. Osgood, Norwich.

Mr. Benj. P. Ware—Since the last meeting the death has occurred of Col. J. A. Harwood, late of Worcester, who was prominent in the affairs of this Society and a well-known stock breeder and exhibitor at our fairs. He was a man highly respected throughout the state and his death is a great loss from the active membership of the Society. I knew him well and learned to respect him, not only as a man of business but also as a gentleman of honor, and one who could be respected at all times. I move that a suitable memorial be prepared to be published and sent to the members of this Society.

Mr. O. B. Hadwen, Worcester—Another well-known member of this Society has passed away during the year: Ex-Governor Hyde, of Connecticut. The Society and the State have met with a loss almost irreparable. I move that his name be also included. It was also moved as an amendment that the name be included of the late Mr. Wm. H. Hopkins of Rhode Island, who had been one of the prominent horticulturists of the State.

The amendments were accepted and the motion was passed. Messrs. Ware, Hadwen and Smith were appointed a committee to prepare the memorial.

The matter of selecting a place for the Fair of 1897 was then brought forward. In anticipation of possible rivalry from Worcester, the Maine members were present in large numbers, and they applauded vigorously each time that the claims of Portland were advocated. But the Worcester contingent came prepared to give way gracefully and Mr. J. L. Ellsworth declared as their spokesman that he wished to second the wishes of the Portland delegates, as they deserved the fair for another year by their labor and expense in connection therewith.

Mr. M. N. Rich, a delegate of the Portland Board of Trade, strongly set forth the claims of that city. Portland, he said, was better prepared than ever before to entertain the fair. There were added improvements and more buildings at the Park. The electric car service of the city had been improved and also the hotel capacity. The Board of Trade and the City Government would do all in their power to arouse interest.

The matter of holding the fair was put to vote and the choice was declared unanimously in favor of Portland. Dinner was served to members and guests at the Quincy House at one o'clock.

Do Cows Need Salt?

Is it important that cows should be regularly salted, and is it well to have rock salt where they can use it at pleasure?

The dairy experts who replied to the above question as put by Secretary Corburn of Kansas Board of Agriculture, seem to all agree upon the main question, but as to the kind of salt a difference of opinion existed.

Hoard—Yes. Haeccker—They should always have access to salt. I prefer common barrel salt, in a trough or long box. Wallace—Yes.

Wilson—Yes, it is important; for the cow more so than for the fattening steer.

Dean—Cows should have access to salt every day. We use common salt, and prefer it to the rock salt, as "rock salt will not satisfy the cows before their tongues become sore," say some of our dairymen.

Wing—It is. Rock salt is very convenient, but ordinary salt in a covered shed answers every purpose, provided the animals have access to it all the time.

Goodrich—Cows should have free access to salt, and I would prefer to have barrel salt where they could get at it, rather than rock salt.

Alvord—It is well, but not so important as sometimes represented.

Gurlier—It is. Gould—Yes; rock or other salt at pleasure is fairly good, although not so good for some cows.

Curtiss—Yes. Dodge—Yes. We salt daily, but use no rock salt; do not like it as well as fine salt.

Dawley—Cows must have salt regularly. Mathieson—It is very important that cows should be salted regularly in some way.

Carlyle—It is of the greatest importance that milk cows have an abundance of salt, not only regularly, but have free access to it. After giving rock salt a trial, we concluded that common barrel salt, placed in troughs, with a fresh supply about every three days, gives best results.

Adams—It is. Brandt—Most certainly. Morgan—Yes, they should have access to salt at all times. Rock salt is not looked upon with much favor.

Nisley—They should be regularly salted, and I think the idea of having rock salt where they can get it at pleasure is good.

Jones—It is very important that they be salted regularly. Put rock salt where cows and other stock can have access to it at all times. Eyth—Yes.

Horticultural Notes.

T. B. Terry thinks the Ozark region of Southern Missouri is to become the fruit garden of the world.

The largest peach tree on record is at Greenfield, Mo. It is five feet around the largest part of the trunk, and when in its prime had a spread of 80 feet.

The fruit grower must attend to business. He cannot at the same time be a banker, grocer, or dry goods merchant. Personal experience is needed.

Every fruit grower should have some specialty for a leader and also a number of auxiliary crops to protect against danger of total failure any one year.

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN
BOSTON, FEBRUARY 6, 1897.
Persons desiring a change in the address of this paper must state where the paper has been sent as well as the new direction.

PLOUGHMAN FARMERS' MEETING.
Saturday, Feb. 6--10 A.M.

ESSAY by BENJ. P. WARE, of Clifton.
Subject: "Farming as a Business."

The next MASS. PLOUGHMAN Farmers' Meeting will be held in Wesleyan Hall, 36 Bromfield St., Boston, Saturday, February 6, at 10 o'clock A.M.

This is the lecture which was postponed from Jan. 9 on account of the destruction by fire of Mr. WARE's valuable residence at Clifton. But the meeting will prove all the more valuable by the delay; for Mr. WARE has had time and opportunity to prepare some interesting additions to his essay. He is a much travelled man and familiar with conditions of agriculture in many parts of the country. Mr. WARE is well known to those who have attended the Farmers' Meetings, to the success of which his skill and tact as a chairman and speaker have contributed to an important degree. He is a speaker of force, originality and sound common sense, who comes to the point at once, and who never fails to say something interesting and calculated to call out the experience of others. His remarks cannot fail to be suggestive and helpful to all who are in any way interested in the business of farming. The discussion upon this subject is fair, from hints that have been dropped, to prove a lively bit of talk. These meetings are by no means limited to readers of this paper. All are welcome, ladies as well as gentlemen. Young men are especially invited to this meeting.

LOVE your farm, and the farm will love you.

TAKE zealous care of your farm while you are young, and it will not fall you in old age.

A RECORD of the weather kept carefully in a diary is both useful and interesting for future reference.

CRUDE petroleum is a good point for the iron work of wagons, machinery and tools. It is almost as cheap as the barrel of water.

DID the big storm catch you without a snow plough? Two eight-foot lengths of two-inch hemlock plank nailed together V-shaped will give you a good plough.

SMALL cows may be good milkers at first, but they generally lack staying power. Large, coarse cows are, on the other hand, likely to be costly feeders. A vigorous animal of fully average size and of the milk type is best.

THE experiments in feeding oleo oil and sugar to young calves, recorded in the issue of Jan. 23, as conducted by the Vermont Station, were carried on by that eminent investigator, Prof. J. B. Lindsay, of the Mass. Agricultural College.

A FARMER may not seem to be adding to his bank account at all these hard times, but so long as his farm is improving he is all right. A man who starts with a common farm and ends with a good one has made a success; and a good farm will carry him safely through the declining years of life.

YOUNG MEN should look to the farm to supply their "old age pension." Enrich the land, plant orchards, underdrain, breed better livestock, learn to grow high grade produce and to direct hired labor, that in later life the farm may be your best friend.

THE foreign apple market seems to have greatly improved, and the English dealers have been able to dispose of their surplus, thus placing the conditions upon a sound basis. If carefully managed without excessive or inferior shipments, it is quite possible that the foreign outlet will prove sufficient for our surplus stock.

THE Connecticut Legislature has not repealed the tuberculosis infection law, but has suspended its action for one year, during which period the matter will be investigated. It seems that the law has not reached the expectation of its promoters, and before going into operation again important changes are likely. Cattle now in quarantine are to be released.

THE last cold snap and snow storm caught Farmer Slack with his kitchen pump out of gear. If Slack had a little gumption he would have mended it himself. As it was, they melted snow for a few days, until a path was dug down to the brook. Later on a couple of plumbers will come from town and spend a costly day at Slack's farm. He says that next summer he will fix the well covering so that he can get at the water when the pump gives out again.

DEAFNESS CANNOT BE CURED

By local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflammation of the mucous lining of the Eustachian tube. When this tube is inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed, deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever. Nine cases out of ten are caused by catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surface.

will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of Deafness (caused by catarrh) that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circular, free.

F. J. CHENEY & Co., Toledo, O.
Sold by Druggists, etc.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

Public religious activity in this city has been of a pronounced type during the past month. Several of the larger churches have been holding revival meetings, largely attended. D. L. Moody and "Sam" Jones, the evangelists, and Francis Murphy, the temperance reformer, have daily addressed large congregations, and their sermons have been given wide publicity through the newspapers. Ingersoll, the infidel lecturer, has also visited the city to champion opinions of quite opposite description from those of the three evangelists. Mr. Moody's hold upon the public favor seems to depend upon his sincerity, his energy, and his simple directness of speech. "Sam" Jones exhibits greater originality of thought and expression, than the other, but is otherwise less impressive. Mr. Murphy's strongest hold is upon those addicted to the liquor habit, to whom he speaks impressively from his own early experience.

Foreign papers are full of rumors concerning the reform of the Turkish government, and it is uncertain just what plan will finally be adopted. It is reported that Germany is now willing that forcible means shall be employed to compel reform. This leaves England, Austria, Italy and Germany in favor of forced reform, with only Russia, and possibly France also, opposed to such a measure. There is still disagreement enough to hinder the project. A semi-official idea of the powers' scheme has been received here from Constantinople. The provinces, Asiatic as well as European, are to have some sort of elective councils, with administrative governments. A council of state, composed of members representing the provinces and members appointed by the Sultan, is to sit for state annual periods in Constantinople. This council will have a voice in the appointment of ministers and in the regulation of the finances. The Sultan is to govern through his ministers, and not through the palace functionaries, and the administration of justice is also to be reformed. This scheme would keep the Sultan well under control, and that opposition should exist is much to be deplored.

The problem of the practical use of the power of the tide is of much interest and importance because of the enormous amount of such power along the coast. By fully utilizing the tides it has been asserted that almost unlimited power might be furnished to any city within 100 miles of the coast. A promising attempt in this direction has been made near Providence. After patents were procured for tidal water power, a plant was erected at Bowers Cove in 1893, at a point where the tides were strong, yet easily controlled. The following winter the dam was partially washed away. In the spring of 1896 work on the old plant was renewed, the dam was made stronger, a larger set of turbine wheels was put in, and all is ready for the work of manufacturing electricity. The cost of the plant was \$20,000. It is estimated that 1000 horse-power will be obtained on a "four-foot tide," with a fall of one-third. The power is perpetual, and it is promised that the current will not vary, no matter how changeable the tides. A waterfall is created from one-quarter to one-half the tide, and no matter if the tide is five or fifty feet, the fall is perpetual. It is hoped that this attractive enterprise may succeed, and so lead to increased use of the wasted energy of the sea.

The graceless capers of two or three titled society women have excited the contemptuous amazement of all Europe during the past few weeks. The most atrocious of these several escapades was, perhaps, that of the Princess de Cambray, a former American belle, who became tired of her titled husband and family, and eloped with a gypsy musician. After attracting wide attention, the elopement came to the usual end of such affairs, and the ill-assorted pair have already quarreled and separated. The quarrel ended by the departure of the Princess, who started, unattended by the gypsy, for Monte Carlo. Before leaving the Princess paid her own share of the bill due at the hotel, but refused to pay that incurred by Rigo, who is, consequently, in an awkward position, being in need of money to settle his account.

The longest regular daily run made without a stop by any railway train in the world has just been placed on the schedule of the Great Western Railway of England. It is made between Paddington station in London and Exeter, a distance of 194 miles, in three hours and thirty-six minutes, by what is known as the Cornwall express. It is remarkable not so much owing to the time as for the fact that not a stop is made from one end of the run to the other. The average speed attained by the Cornwall express when making this run is 51.7 miles an hour, although owing to a peculiar construction of the road at Bristol, 118 miles from London, the train is obliged to slow down to a speed of ten miles an hour. This express train is composed of six long coaches, a tender and engine. The total weight of the train is 321 tons.

George W. Powell, of New York, the well-known writer and lecturer on farm topics, says that the immediate requirements of agriculture are: "First, greater knowledge on the part of farmers to unlock further fertility; second, wider information of what others are doing; third, fewer acres, more culture; fourth, encouragement of forestry; fifth, improved home life on the farm; sixth, better schools in farm districts, with elements of agriculture taught in them; seventh, encouragement of small holdings instead of great farms; eighth, extension of granges and farmers' clubs; ninth, better highways; tenth, rural mail delivery; eleventh, down the saloon."

ing the Ploughman Farmers' Meeting Feb.

Broken Down in Health

Shouts to Whole World His Cure
by Dr. Greene's Nervura.

Andrew H. Olney, Gibson, N. Y., says:—
"I was broken down with nervous and physical prostration, before using Dr. Greene's Nervura blood and nerve remedy, and life was a burden. Now life is a joy and sleep is a luxury compared to it before taking Nervura."



ANDREW H. OLNEY, REG.

"I wish I could shout loud enough so all the world could hear, and tell them the good this wonderful medicine has done for me. It has made me a weak, trembling, nervous, irritable man, to one who feels he is on the highway to long years of health and happiness through Dr. Greene's Nervura blood and nerve remedy."

If constipated, use Dr. Greene's Cathartic Pills with the Nervura.
Dr. Greene, 34 Temple Place, Boston, Mass., the most successful physician in curing nervous and chronic diseases, can be consulted free, personally or by letter.

Plant Beauty.

IN PRAISE OF FLORAL COLOR, FORM AND HARMONY.
Last Saturday forenoon, Mr. H. T. Bailey, State Supervisor of drawing, read an essay on Plant Beauty before the Mass. Horticultural Society.

"Plant beauty is of two sorts, beauty of color and beauty of form. In some plants, like the calla, beauty of form predominates; in others, like the peony, beauty of color; in still others, like the gladiolus, the lines of stalk, flower, and bud are as noticeably lovely as their colors. Plants conspicuously beautiful for their form should not be gathered together in tight bouquets; each should be enjoyed by itself or with two or three companions so grouped in a vase or other receptacle that the beautiful lines of each are enhanced by those of the others. Plants of lovely color, on the other hand, are more effective when massed. One snowball is insignificant; a bushel basket full of branches crowded with the balls of creamy white glowing against the rich green of their foliage is highly effective. In the arrangement of flowers of beautiful form we have much to learn from the Japanese."

"The American people are becoming more sensitive to beauty every year. The florists who furnish flowers to decorate their homes and halls can do much to elevate public taste. A really beautiful thing is always attractive. What was true for Emerson is true for us all. Speaking of beauty, he said: 'When first my eyes saw thee I found me thy thrall.' It costs no more to make a beautiful bouquet than to make an ugly one, and ultimately he who produces beauty gives the greater pleasure and receives the larger reward."

Export of Farm Products.

The course of the export trade in animals and their products during the past eight years forms a very interesting subject for study. The great gains in the export of live animals have been with horses, mules and sheep. With animal products a notable gain is seen in the case of fresh beef, mutton, oleo oil, hams and sole leather. In 1889 the exports of horses were 3748 head, and the average of the four years 1889 to 1892, inclusive, was 3396. In 1896 the exports of horses reached 25,126, with an average for the four years 1893 to 1896, inclusive, of 11,831. The number of sheep exported in 1889 was 128,862, and the average of the four years 1889 to 1892 was 76,070. In 1896 the export of sheep reached the remarkable number of 491,565, and the average of the four years 1893 to 1896 was 266,736.

Cattle Inspection in Connecticut.

The Connecticut Cattle Commission has been held for the past year, having tested 14,155 cattle, of which 924 were killed. The sum of \$13,647 was paid for condemned cattle and the total expense of the Commission was \$20,723. Says the report of the Board:

"In our opinion the milk may communicate the disease, but is by no means sure to do so. If it has even in a single instance carried the disease to persons, it is sufficient to occasion apprehension in the matter, and to cause the product of such animals to be discarded. The danger to public health we believe to be mainly in the consumption of milk, and experiments have shown that this danger may be avoided by heating the milk to 165 degs., and keeping it there for fifteen minutes."

The Connecticut Legislature has voted to suspend the action of the tuberculosis laws for one year, pending investigation into the matter.

Read and Run.

—Canada is again agitated over the circulating of foreign silver.

—The Cattle Commissioners are soon to have quarters in the State House.

—Congressman Moody thinks another year will end the "free seed humping."

—The Underwood belting factory at Tolland, Conn., has been burned; loss \$50,000.

—A Franco-American company will lay a cable to compete with the British West Indies cable.

—Three hundred hands are thrown out of work in Brockton by the closing of a factory.

—Professor White of Harvard has been elected president of the Archaeological Institute of America.

—Joseph C. Collins' residence in Hartsville, near Great Barrington, was burned Sunday forenoon.

—Western railway officials are making a desperate fight against legislative proposals to reduce passenger rates.

—Dr. Arthur H. Messiter, for 31 years organist of Old Trinity Church, New York city, will retire on May 1 next with a liberal pension.

—The French method of identifying criminals, known as the Bertillon system of measuring, will be adopted by the police authorities of New York city.

—A decision in favor of the Boston Produce Exchange has been given on the protest against discrimination in the use of the Union Freight Railway yard.

You wear out clothes on a washboard ten times as much as on the body. *How foolish!* Buy Dobbin's Electric Soap of your grocer and save this useless wear. Made ever since 1865. Don't take imitation. There are lots of them.

—A can filled with milk burst open and extinguished the flames in a milk wagon, which had been set on fire by a collision with an electric car in Chicago, Ill.

—Miss Agnes Schilling, aged eighteen, acquired notoriety in a slight degree, Sunday, by swimming from one hundred yards or more about the pier near West Brighton, L. I.

—The sixteenth anniversary of the organization of the first Christian Endeavor Society in the United States was observed in the birthplace of that society, the Wiliston Church, at Portland, Me., Sunday night.

—The trial of Andrew Feagly, who, according to the confession of his accomplices, was the leader of the gang of train wreckers who removed a rail on McComb's trestle near Birmingham, Ala., on the night of Dec. 22, has ended in a verdict of guilty.

—The grain elevator and hay sheds of J. O. Ellison & Son, 150 Essex street, Haverhill, were burned Sunday evening, entailing a loss of about \$10,000. The fire was one of the hardest that has occurred there for years, and the entire department was called out.

—The farmhouse of Charles Betts, situated on the lonely road between Chatham Centre and East Chatham, Columbia County, N. Y., was entered by masked burglars Saturday evening. Nearly \$3, an overcoat, a dress suit, twelve silver spoons and two silver watches were secured. Mr. Flint is a cripple. Mr. Betts is an invalid, and both were unable to make any resistance.

Items of Farm News

Chautauque County, N. Y., is a popcorn center.

A grape-fruit grove, located near Palmetto, Fla., contains 160 acres and 12,000 trees.

Sixteen thousand barrels of apples were gathered last fall from three adjoining farms in Maine.

The mint growers of Muskegon County, Mich., made enough mint last year to make 40,000 pounds of oil, which is worth \$1 per pound.

The Liverpool Corn Trade News estimates that Europe will look to the United States for 17,000,000 bushels of wheat a month until July 1, 1897.

The peach trees in Connecticut are said to be in best condition for a crop this year. The trees had a rest last year, and are now full of healthy buds.

The average yield of Irish potatoes last year was 86.5 bushels per acre. This is above the average for ten years past. Sweet potatoes averaged 70.8 bushels, against 79 bushels in 1895, and 92.4 bushels in 1894.

Don't Be Poor This Winter.

For the benefit of our readers who want money and health, we print the following letter, which we just received.—
Editor:—I have had such splendid success I can't help writing you about it. Maybe it will help your readers. I have not made less than \$18 a week and sometimes as high as \$40 a week selling the \$5 Vapor Bath Cabinet to families and physicians. Everybody, sick or well, buys; don't have to canvass. They give such good satisfaction that everyone sold sells 5 or 6 more, and I believe I can make \$1200 this year sure, and may be more. Have cured lots of people of Colds, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Malaria, Grippe, in fact, all Blood, Skin, Nervous and Kidney Troubles, and they all buy a cabinet. Dr. and medicine bills, prevent disease and really cures, and doesn't take any experience. It beautifies complexion and is good for all ladies' ailments. Anyone can make money at this business if they try, and I wish your readers would write Y. World Mfg. Co., Columbus, Ohio, for samples, try this business and publish their success. J. B. P.

Concerning the White Plymouth Rock breed, Mr. I. K. Felch writes: "Their eggs are larger and darker shaded than those of their blue cousins. They have no dark pin feathers, and are sure of one of the biggest booms enjoyed by any solid colored breed." The specimens shown in this week's illustration were bred by the Reliable Incubator and Brooder Company, of Quincy, Ill.

Your boy will not want to leave the farm if he gets interested in farming by attending the Ploughman Farmers' Meeting Feb.

No Bay State Fair.

COMMITTEE DECLINES BOTH THE WORCESTER AND READVILLE PROPOSITIONS.

The decision of the Executive Committee of the Bay State Agricultural Society not to hold a fair this year has been the cause of much surprise, because it was generally supposed that one of the several invitations would be accepted.

At the annual meeting, Jan. 20, the whole matter of holding a fair was left to the executive committee, just as was done last year. An invitation had been received to hold a fair jointly with the Worcester Agricultural Society at Worcester, where last year's fair was held. The Breeders' Association also invited the Society to hold their fair at Readville. The committee gave the matter due consideration at its meeting Jan. 29, and voted that both invitations be declined with thanks, and no fair be held.

This decision will doubtless prove a disappointment to the management of the Worcester Society, and some effort will doubtless be made by that organization to secure the co-operation of some other powerful organization in order to increase the prestige of their fair.

Since the above was written the Worcester Agricultural Society has secured the co-operation of the State Grange of Massachusetts, and the two organizations will hold a joint fair at Worcester next fall. An executive committee of the Grange met Tuesday to arrange the details in regard to the coming event. The exhibition will probably be called the State Grange Fair.

Farmers' Institutes in Maine.

Dr. G. M. Twitchell, Secretary of the Maine State Agricultural Society, is to hold Institutes next week, as follows: Tuesday, the ninth, at Newbury, forenoon and afternoon, his subjects being "Poultry for the Farmer" and "Little Leaks vs. Great Wastes;" Wednesday evening at Barnstable; Thursday evening at Attleboro and Friday at Townsend. It is hoped the farmers will attend these meetings prepared to question the speaker and provoke a lively discussion.

Potatoes for the Poor.

The Pingree potato patch scheme for the assistance of the poor has received new support under Commander Booth-Tucker, leader of the Salvation Army in this country. He announces his support of the plan, and says that the army will take it up this spring as the leading feature of its relief work, not only in the United States, but in every place where the army has a corps. He says: "Governor Pingree, whom I consider one of the foremost men on economic questions, has started on the right method. His family farming plan is a great thing, and I hope to see it started in every city in the United States on a very large scale. It will do wonders for this entire country. As a feature of the relief work of the Salvation Army it can be made of great use. I hope to see great colonies established in the vacant lands of the West, where the unemployed can thus become self-sustaining. We should have farms near New York, and every other Eastern metropolis, so that the market can be relieved of its surplus labor and pauperism can be reduced."

He said that the 640 branches of the army in this country would start potato patches this spring, and he believed the system would be extended all over the world. The idea is to be commended, as it would not greatly affect the potato market, being intended only for the very poor.

As it has been discovered that the cattle at Long Island were affected with tuberculosis, five cows have been killed by order of the State Board of Health. Other cows in the city's herd at that institution have been quarantined and no milk from them will be used until a thorough investigation of the place and a careful examination of the cattle is made.

At the meeting of the New England Society, the fact was made evident that the Portland people wanted the fair and that they would work for its success. Likewise it was admitted by all parties that Portland ought to have the fair, having been led to expect it and to prepare for it. Hence the courteous and kindly withdrawal of the Worcester contingent was a just and friendly act which could not fail to increase the good feeling on all sides.

By arranging to hold their next fair in conjunction with the State Grange, the Worcester Agricultural Society has made a very powerful alliance and one which will enable them to make the forthcoming exhibition more varied and extensive and which will attract patronage from a new field. The Grange in this State is a strong, loyal and closely organized body, whose numerous members will work with a will for the success of an enterprise in common. The next Worcester fair should be a great success.

Country Real Estate.

A five-acre farm residence near Norton, with modern-style buildings, known as the Smith estate, has been sold to Marguerite Kennedy of Malden, who buys for her own use.

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DEATHS.

BASSETT—At Neponset, Jan. 21, Joseph S. Bassett.

CALDWELL—At Grafton, N.H., Jan. 23, James S. Caldwell, 63 yrs, 3 mos.

FARRAM—At Lawrence, N.Y., Jan. 22, Susan B. Farram, 85 yrs, 6 mos, 10 days.

FIFIELD—At Waverly Jan. 21, Charles S. Fifield of Revere, 63 yrs.

HUTCHINSON—At Danvers, Mass., Jan. 23, John H. Hutchinson, 78 yrs, 9 mos.

JOHNSON—At Lawrence, N.Y., Jan. 22, Mrs. Mary Ware Johnson of Northboro, Mass.

RICE—At Shrewsbury, Mass., Jan. 25, Ellen Lawrence Rice, 69 yrs.

SAGE—At Billerica, Jan. 17, Miss Mary Sage of Bedford, 80 yrs.

STARK—At Marshfield, Mass., Jan. 22, Dr. Charles A. Stark.

THOMAS—At Dennisport, Mass., Jan. 23, Mary Jane Thomas, 90 yrs.

We now import Wood Ashes

Direct from Canada, collected by our own employees, in the hard wood districts, tested, and ship them out under our own guarantee of strength and purity. When you buy wood ashes or any other fertilizer, take care of strength and purity, and deal only with concerns of known responsibility. Our twenty-five years in business, our ample capital and facilities, combine to make our guarantee of value. Our Bowker's

Bone and Wood-Ash Fertilizer

at 25¢ per ton is an excellent combination. Write for particulars.

BOWKER FERTILIZER COMPANY,
43 Chatham Street, Boston.

MARRIAGES.

BOWDITCH—FORSTER—At Milton, Jan. 20, Frederick C. Bowditch of Brookline and Elizabeth T. Forster.

KEAY—ASELTINE—At Malden, Jan. 21, Charles Newhall Keay and Lottie Jeanne Aseltine, both of Malden.

Possible Substitute for Potato.

A plant which is regarded as in some degree a substitute for the potato is finding increasing favor in England, France and Switzerland.

It is a member of the dead nettle or labiate order, to which thyme, mint, sage and other pot-herbs belong. The plant known as Crose du Japon and Chinese artichoke is called Stachys tubifera, and is characterized by the possession of tuberous underground stems, which were swollen and headlike, owing to the accumulation of food matter in the internodes. Its peculiar advantage over the potato consists in its possession of eight times as much nitrogenous matter as the potato, thus making it a more complete and balanced food.

The Chinese artichoke contains also sixteen and a half parts of a readily digested carbohydrate known as glectan, a body which is much more digestible than starch, because more easily converted by the digestive juices into soluble dextrose of sugar. Stachys tubers were recommended by Plancha, their analyzer, as a substitute for potatoes, especially for invalids. This plant should be tested by American experiment stations.

Literary Notes.

For 1897, beginning with the January issue, there will be added to the usual departments of TABLE TALK, in response to a wide demand from its readers, an additional page of menus giving noon-day dinners. In this same issue appears an article on "The Pleasures of Eating," by Elizabeth Grinnell. The history of "Knives, Trainers, Cupboards and Hutches" is treated by Kate Crosby, while the Housekeepers' inquiry Department contains a large number of most excellent recipes. "The New Bill of Fare" is replete with women's interests, and the entertainments are well adapted to create the pleasure they are hoped to promote. There will also be, throughout the season, articles by a thoroughly practical authority, containing well-tested recipes for the canning, preserving and pickling of fruits and vegetables.

BOOKS FOR FARM AND GARDEN.

"POTASH IN AGRICULTURE" is the title of a pamphlet, published by the German Kalk Works, 92 Nassau street, New York. This book is known to many of our readers from its first edition, published a few years ago. The second edition contains many valuable improvements. The contents embody a collection of results obtained with fertilizers at our experiment stations. It would appear from these conclusions that many brands of fertilizers now on the market do not contain as much potash as they should for the production of the best results. It would certainly pay every farmer to write for a copy of this book, which, we understand, is sent free.

It is unfortunate that the hearings at the Mass. State House are not given out in sufficient season to be always announced in the weekly papers.

For instance, the hearing on the fruit interests Wednesday was unknown to many who might have wished to attend, because the notice appeared only in a few of the daily papers. There is no good reason why hearings should not be posted for weeks in advance.

JAMAICA'S CHARMING SCENERY.

Few are aware of the unparalleled scenery and equable climate of Jamaica, the Queen of the West Indian Islands. Possessing every advantage that Bermuda and Nassau have, and a thousand delights of scenery and climate which they have not, Jamaica is bound to take first rank among the health and pleasure resorts of this continent; her lofty mountains and deep valleys, her beautiful bays and her fine beaches, her superbly situated hotels and her high-class hotels, her fine climate and her beautiful scenery, all combine to make Jamaica a most desirable place for a winter or a summer resort. A special limited party under personal escort will leave New York January 13 by the Atlas Line steamship Allegheny, for comprehensive tours of 19 to 39 days, one to four weeks of which will be spent on the island. Several of these tours return to New York via Florida. An illustrated book of tours can be had free, and full particulars on application to Pierce's Excursion Company, No. 197 Washington street, Boston, or E. M. Jenkins & Co., No. 273 Broadway, New York.

THE WHOLE STORY

Of the great sales attained and great cures accomplished by Hood's Sarsaparilla is quickly told. It purifies and enriches the blood, tones the stomach and gives strength and vigor. Disease cannot enter the system fortified by the rich, red blood which comes from Hood's Sarsaparilla.

HOOD'S PILLS cure nausea, sick headache, indigestion, biliousness. All druggists, 25c.

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